

The Weyerhaeuser Company had a vision for sustainable and environmentally responsible forest management before "green" became fashionable. In 1904, General Manager George Long sponsored a study to look at the impacts of growing timber as a crop—replenishing the resource with every harvest. Under Long's leadership, Weyerhaeuser pioneered many of the conservation, fire protection and reforestation techniques used in forest management today.

I am proud of and thankful for the great legacy that Weyerhaeuser has given to Washington—the Evergreen State. I hope that with balanced policies and responsible stewardship, Weyerhaeuser will continue to prosper in the next century.●

SENATOR MIKULSKI'S TRIP TO NORTHERN IRELAND

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, Senator MIKULSKI recently returned from a visit to Northern Ireland, where she held productive discussions with both Catholics and Protestants who are working together for community and economic development. As columnist Thomas Oliphant wrote in a perceptive column on March 19 in the *Boston Globe*, Senator MIKULSKI's trip, and her work for grassroots development and cooperation in these communities, are important both symbolically and practically.

As all of us who share the dream of a permanent and lasting peace are aware, much remains to be done to carry out the peace process. I commend Senator MIKULSKI for her initiative and leadership on this issue, and I ask that Mr. Oliphant's column about her trip may be printed in the RECORD.

The column follows:

[From the *Boston Globe*, Mar. 19, 2000]

NEW OPTIMISM OUT OF ULSTER

(By Thomas Oliphant)

The brain connected to the freshest pair of eyes to look into Northern Ireland in some time was somewhat surprised by two things.

The first observation by Senator Barbara Mikulski was that the six counties' political leaders are themselves surprised at their inability to get out of the stalemate-ditches they keep driving into.

The second was that during an intensive visit framed around what's really exciting in the North these days—cross-community, practical efforts by Protestants and Catholics to get basic things done together—it was not until she got to the seat of government at Stormont that she heard the word "de-commissioning," the absurd euphemism that refers to the turning in of weapons by paramilitary organizations.

What this shows is merely how the pull of the violent, unjust sectarian past blocks a settlement that the people want. It has been going on for the two years since the U.S.-brokered Good Friday Agreement put all the building blocks for reconciliation except local political will into place.

"But," says the Maryland senator, "even though the peace process appears to be on

hold, there is another informal but absolutely crucial peace process going on at the community and neighborhood level."

Mikulski was referring to the overwhelming majority's intense desire to put the troubles in their past. That desire is creating a "social glue" that has enormous potential for Northern Ireland's long-range evolution.

By far the most important example exists under the umbrella of the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust. Beneath this umbrella exists all manner of activities that involve Catholics and Protestants informally in specific tasks. There are groups that include former prisoners as well as families of the victims of violence and their survivors; organizations working on environmental issues as well as community centers and playgrounds; unions and microeconomic development activists; work on mental health issues as well as children's health problems. As Mikulski notes, it is all specific and local—and loaded with implications.

The best symbol, in the North Belfast Community Development Council, is the cellular phones in use during the Protestant marching season. Rumors are chased down, Catholics hear that a particular march will halt at a predesignated spot without any triumphalist chanting and should thus be of no major concern, and armed with that assurance, keep their own hotheads in check.

A year ago, when some 50 of the trust's most active female activists met with U.S. supporters, they were so fresh to their cause and nervous about the impact that the names of the participants were kept private. Mikulski arranged a meeting for them with women in the U.S. Senate, most of whom came to politics via similar routes of local activism.

Mikulski's involvement at this delicate stage is important both because of what she has done and who she is. She got into her business because of her fight against a highway. Years later she remains a grass-roots political leader, able to understand the byzantine nature of Northern Ireland's street-level culture. And she is a powerful Democratic senator on the Appropriations Committee who is comfortable working across party lines.

Mikulski notes that the Fund for Ireland, the basic aid network to which the U.S. government commits \$20 million, is an excellent operation that has been especially useful in economic development and other brick and mortar activities. But she also suggests that the time has come to "take a fresh look at the U.S. role to think about supporting this cross-communal activity."

She is also blunt about looking at the trust's activities and potential, official U.S. support without blinders. "Their idea, what makes them so worthwhile," she said, "is their very careful focus on specific needs and projects. This is not some gooshy-poo, Irish sensitivity training where everybody gets in a hot tub and bonds. It's serious work. The fund has done a very good job, but I think we're now at a different place."

What she says about U.S. policy also should spark new thinking about private American support for Ireland. Given the roaring condition of the Irish Republic's economy, traditional charity and philanthropy appears to be less important than the cutting-edge activism across sectarian lines of the trust's participants.

They cannot be a substitute for the appalling failure of politicians in the North to transcend the past. But they do demonstrate how much of a difference individuals can make when they band together.

There now exist networks of community organizations that personify the broader refusal to regress, and they need all the support they can get. But they can't fill the vacuum without their so-called leaders. "It's like when you put your VCR on pause," said Mikulski. "It holds for a while, but eventually the old tape starts playing again."●

RETIREMENT OF MR. BRUCE AKERS

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Mr. Bruce Akers on the occasion of his retirement as senior vice president for Civic Affairs at KeyBank in Cleveland, OH. Bruce's accomplishments are not limited to his 40 years of service in the banking industry, but extend to the difference he has made in the lives of countless citizens. His decades of leadership and generosity have helped make Cleveland the great city it is today.

Bruce has served the public at many levels—in government, the private sector, and in civic organizations. From 1975 to 1977, he served as executive secretary to Cleveland Mayor Ralph Perk. Today Bruce continues to show his dedication to civic responsibility and action in local government through his service as mayor of Pepper Pike, OH.

Bruce is also committed to a number of Cleveland's cultural, educational, charitable and civic institutions including service as chairman of the Key Foundation, a trustee of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs and president of the Cleveland Opera. I don't believe I will ever forget Bruce's "cameo" appearance in the Cleveland Opera's rendition of *Aida* in 1984. He gave a tremendous performance that is still talked about to this day.

Bruce's community commitment also extends to service as a trustee of the Citizens League Research Institute, membership on the Executive, Central, and Policy Committee's of the Cuyahoga County Republican Party, membership on the Advisory Council of the Alzheimer's Association, membership on the Cleveland Leadership Prayer Breakfast Steering Committee, and chairman of Cleveland's Promise, the local branch of America's Promise which strives to create an environment for a better future.

Bruce's belief in volunteerism was recently celebrated in "Cleveland Live," a news and information "on-line" publication serving the Cleveland community, where he shared his philosophy on volunteering. Bruce stated, "volunteering is a four-way win: a win for the organization benefitting from the volunteers' services; a win for the volunteers who gain new perspectives and feel self-fulfilled; a win for the employer because the employee-volunteer is a better-rounded employee; and a win for the community whose quality of life is improved, thanks to effective, dedicated volunteers." I could not agree more with Bruce's assessment.